

## What is Dementia?

Dementia is a set of symptoms resulting from disease, such as Alzheimer's, or other conditions such as stroke, that damage the brain and interfere with a person's ability to carry out daily activities.

## Who is a family caregiver?

Anyone providing physical, emotional, financial, or other types of assistance to a family member or friend, who has a chronic disease or other condition, requiring ongoing care and attention.

## When should I have a memory screen?

- A memory screen is a brief test used to evaluate memory, judgment and the ability to understand visual information.
- When mental tasks that used to be easy to perform, become difficult
- If you are concerned about your memory.
- If you are over 65 and want to track your cognitive ability over time.



### **BALSAM LAKE OFFICE (Polk County)**

100 Polk County Plaza Suite 60  
Balsam Lake, WI 54810  
Local phone: 715-485-8449  
Fax: 715-485-8460

### **SIREN OFFICE (Burnett County)**

7410 County Road K, #180  
Siren, WI 54872  
Local phone: 715-349-2100  
Fax: 715-349-8644

**Toll Free: 877-485-2372**

**adrc@co.polk.wi.us**  
**adrcnwwi.org**

### **Appointments**

The Dementia Care Specialist can make appointments to meet your needs. Appointments can be held:

- At the ADRC (Balsam Lake or Siren office)
  - In your home
  - Based upon your schedule
- Please contact the ADRC to schedule*

## Dementia Care Specialist



*Serving all who are impacted by Dementia including individuals with dementia, family members, professionals and the community.*



# Dementia Care Specialist

The ADRC of Northwest Wisconsin is proud to offer Dementia Care specialist services. Our Dementia Care Specialist is a trained social worker specializing in the needs and concerns of people living with dementia, the family and loved ones of people living with dementia and professionals working with people who have dementia.

## Support for Individuals with Dementia

### Memory Screening

Our Dementia Care Specialist is trained to provide free memory screens. Individuals who are concerned about signs and symptoms of dementia or changes in memory/behaviors they are experiencing can request a meeting with our DCS to complete a screen.

### Independence

Dementia Care Specialist can help connect you with all of the opportunities available in your community to keep you activities and involved.

### Research Opportunities

You can be connected to research studies that attempt to further understand the causes and possible treatments for Alzheimer's and other dementia.

I've been noticing changes in my own memory and I'm a little worried. What's normal forgetfulness and what's dementia?

## Support for Family Caregivers

### Assistance with Care Planning

Dementia Care Specialists can help to address your current situation and plan for the future, including advance care plans and connections to legal and financial planning experts.

My parent was just diagnosed with Alzheimer's. What does the family need to be prepared for?

### Connections to support groups and other programs

Dementia Care Specialist are knowledgeable about all of the opportunities and resources available in your community and can help you find information and make connections.



## Community Support

### A Resource

The Dementia Care Specialist serves as a resource to the community. The DCS can be contacted by:

- People already living with dementia or Alzheimer's Disease
- Family members and Caregivers
- Professionals (medical providers, social workers, law enforcement, discharge planners, etc.)
- Anyone needing to learn more about dementia and how it differs from the normal aging process

### Dementia Friendly Communities

Dementia Care Specialists assist in the development of dementia friendly communities. These communities typically include:

- Memory Cafes
- Dementia Friendly Businesses
- Increased Civic Awareness of Dementia Related Issues
- Dementia Capable Emergency Response

I'm a policeman. How do I communicate more effectively with someone who has dementia?